

provides for reimbursement of physicians so that we can ensure into generations to come that we have a system in place that respects individuals who are caring for patients and, more importantly, respects patients' opportunity to receive access to the highest quality health care that is available.

And the system that we currently have will not provide for that. It will not deliver that kind of health care system not only today but into the future. And so I challenge and ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have so much opportunity to do good in this institution, this is one of those instances that ought not be a Republican challenge or a Democrat challenge. It is an American challenge, and we need to come together to make certain that we address this in a way that allows patients all across this Nation to continue to have access or to regain access to the highest quality health care that is available.

I thank once again the leadership for allowing me to organize this hour. I thank my colleagues who participated and brought so much wisdom and light to this issue. I appreciate the leadership for allowing me this time, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute Special Order speech of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is vacated.

There was no objection.

IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, our American body politic is turning to a renewed examination of Iran, its government, and our relations with that country. It has become an important member of the OPEC oil-producing cartel. Iran is also a state sponsor of terrorism and a leading voice for one part of Shia Islam.

Recently, Iran elected a new president, a leader who replaced a moderate but ineffectual office holder who had presented Iran in a softer light, hiding a continuing policy of supporting terror and a nuclear program largely hidden from the view of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty that Iran signed and the U.N. inspectors who enforced it.

Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has presented an entirely new face for the government of Iran. We have heard various quotes by the Iranian president in news media sources, but nowhere have all of President Ahmadinejad's statements on key topics been presented in one place for a review by the American public and our allies. Recently, I asked the Congress-

sional Research Service to compile a list entitled "Ahmadinejad In His Own Words" and I present it to the House today. History can be a very good guide in informing us on the direction of countries, of movements of dictators. When we are well informed, we may see the warning signs of dangers ahead so that the American people, our government, and our allies can respond with the most effective and least costly policies to avoid a coming danger. Our past teaches us that we failed to see the coming danger from Germany and Japan, and that mistake led us into a very costly Second World War. Conversely, President Truman saw the threat of the Soviet Union, and his response, including the Marshall Plan, the Voice of America, and NATO, helped the United States avoid a third and costly world war.

Our lessons teach us that tyrants or would-be tyrants often tell us what they are going to do long before they do it. And if we listen, if we truly listen, then the warnings that we are given can move us to action to avert a humanitarian crisis or even a future war involving the United States or our allies. President Ahmadinejad has been prolific on the subject of Israel, of Jews, and of the Holocaust.

And who is this new president of Iran? Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was born in Garmsar, southeast of Tehran in 1956. He is the fourth son of an Iranian iron worker who had seven children. He and his family migrated to Tehran when he was one year old. He got his diploma and was admitted to the University of Science and Technology in the field of civil engineering, where he ranked 130th among nationwide university entrance exams in 1975. He was accepted as an MS student at that same university and in 1986 got his doctorate in the field of engineering and traffic transportation and planning.

Following the 1979 Iranian revolution, he became a member of the ultra-conservative faction of the Office for Strengthening Unity. Between universities and theological seminaries, the OSU was established by Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, one of Khomeini's key collaborators, to organize Islamist students against the rapidly growing Mojahedin-e Khalq. When the idea of storming the American embassy in Tehran was raised by Ahmadinejad's OSU, he also suggested storming the Soviet embassy as well.

With the start of Iraq's war against Iran in 1980, Ahmadinejad rushed to the western fronts to fight against the enemy, and he volunteered to join the special forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Force in 1986. He served in the Revolution Guards Corps in intelligence and security operation.

Ahmadinejad was a senior officer in the Special Brigade of Revolutionary Guards stationed at the Ramazan Garrison near Kermanshah in western Iran. It was there at his headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards' extraterritorial operations that he

helped mount attacks on Iran's borders. His work in the Revolutionary Guards was related to the suppression of dissidents in Iran and abroad, and he personally participated in covert operations in Iraq around the city of Kirkuk.

With the formation of the elite Qods, Jerusalem, Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Ahmadinejad became one of its senior commanders. He directed assassinations in the Middle East and Europe, including the assassination of Iranian Kurdish leader Abdorrahman Qassemlou, who was shot dead by senior officers of the Revolutionary Guards at a Vienna apartment in July of 1989. Ahmadinejad was a key planner of that murder. He also is reported to have been involved in planning an attempt to assassinate author Salman Rushdie.

Ahmadinejad served as a governor of Maku and Khoy cities in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province for 4 years in the 1980s, and he was an adviser to the governor general of the western province of Kurdistan for 2 years. While serving as a cultural adviser to then Ministry of Culture and Higher Education in 1983, he was appointed as governor general of the newly established province of Ardebil. He was elected as the exemplary governor general for three consecutive years, but in 1997 the newly installed Khatami moderate administration removed Ahmadinejad from his post as a governor general.

Ahmadinejad returned to university to teach in 1997, and there he also became involved in the cultural and political work of Ansar-i Hizbullah, the Followers of the Party of God, a violent Islamic vigilante group.

In April of 2003, Ahmadinejad was appointed the mayor of Tehran by the capital's municipal council, dominated by hard-line Islamic Iran Developers Coalition. As mayor, he reversed many of the policies of previous moderate and reformist mayors, placing serious and religious emphasis on the activities of cultural centers, turning them into prayer halls. He also closed fast-food restaurants and required all male employees to have beards and wear long sleeves. He instituted the separation of elevators for men and women in municipal offices and also suggested the burial of bodies of the martyrs of the Iran-Iraq war in the major city squares of his capital, Tehran.

Ahmadinejad was also a member of the hard-line Islamic Revolution Devotees' Society. While they endorsed another candidate in the 2005 election, it was Ahmadinejad that emerged out of that flawed process, for it was during the elections in 2005 in Iran that thousands of moderate candidates were knocked off the ballot by Iran's ruling council of clerics. As one of the candidates still allowed to be on the ballot, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won the presidency on June 24, 2005.

Now, since being elected the president of Iran, Ahmadinejad has left no

doubt about his views on Jews, Israel, and the Holocaust. On October 25, 2005, in advance of Iran's Jerusalem Day, established by Ayatollah Khomeini, he wrote at a conference for the Society Defense of the Palestinian Nation and Islamic Students Union. In his speech, he described his vision for an age-old confrontation between the world of Islam and, as he put it, the world of arrogance, that is the West, portraying Israel and Zionism as the spearhead of the West against the Islamic nation.

He emphasized in that speech the need to eliminate Israel, which he said was an attainable goal. He delivered this speech before several representatives of Hezbollah and its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al.

Speaking to a student conference entitled, "A World Without Zionism," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated: "Very soon this stain that is Israel will vanish from the center of the Islamic world, and that is attainable. The people who sit in closed rooms cannot decide this matter. The Islamic people cannot allow this historic enemy to exist in the heart of the Islamic world. I hope that Palestinians will maintain their wariness and intelligence, much as they have pursued their battles in the last 10 years. This will be a brief period, and if we pass through it successfully, the process of eliminating the Zionist regime will be smooth and simple."

□ 1630

"Our dear Imam Khomeini ordered that the occupying regime in Jerusalem be wiped off the face of the earth. This was a very wise statement."

On April 15, 2006, at the opening of a conference on supporting Palestinians he said, "Like it or not, the Zionist regime is headed towards annihilation."

On April 27, 2006, he stated in a speech in the western Iranian town of Zanjan, carried on live state television, "The regime in Israel will one day vanish."

On May 11, 2006, in a reference to Israel, in a speech to students and instructors at the University of Jakarta, "I advise all of you to pack up and move out of the region before being caught in the fire they have started in Lebanon."

On July 8, 2006, speaking to regional officials at the opening of a two-day conference in Tehran on the security of Iraq he said, "The basic problem in the Islamic world is the existence of the Zionist regime, and the Islamic world and the region must mobilize to remove this problem."

On July 29, 2006, during an emergency meeting with Muslim leaders he said, "The real cure for the Lebanon conflict is the elimination of the Zionist regime, but there should be first an immediate cease-fire."

On August 3, 2006, in a speech before the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to Presidents and Prime Min-

isters and policymakers of 17 Muslim-majority nations in Malaysia, a major international conference, he said, "The Zionist regime is fraudulent and illegitimate and cannot survive."

On October 19, 2006, speaking to crowds of people in Islamshahr, southwest of Tehran, he said, "The regime in Israel will be gone, definitely. You, the western powers, 'should know that any government that stands by the Zionist regime from now on will not see any result but the hatred of people.'"

Earlier this year Congressman STEVE ISRAEL and I had lunch with Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. After a businesslike 20-minute discussion, the Ambassador for the Islamic Republic of Iran entered into a 30-minute monologue on how he believed the Holocaust in Europe had not happened.

After about half an hour I interrupted the Ambassador and told him I was surprised that he used our time to discuss the Iranian nuclear non-proliferation commitment, under a treaty that Iran had signed, to instead discuss issues: number one, of which there was no significant debate about the Holocaust occurring; number two, on events happening over half a century ago; and number three, all occurring outside Iran.

Iran's Ambassador said that his President had ordered him to deny the Holocaust. It was no accident. And on several occasions, we have seen President Ahmadinejad has tried to convince his people that indeed there was no Holocaust.

On December 1, 2005, in a speech to thousands in the southeastern city of Zahedan in southeastern Sistan va Baluchistan Province, and this was carried on Iranian television, he said, "Today, the Europeans have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets. If you committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian people pay the price? This is our proposal: If you committed the crime, then give part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them so the Jews can establish their country."

On April 24, 2006, at a press conference in Tehran, he said, "Every German-born is indebted to the arrogant and greedy Zionists. Sixty years after the war, why do the Palestinians have to burn in the crimes of Zionists under the pretext of the Second World War."

And on December 8, 2005, speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of an Organization of the Islamic Conference antiterrorism summit in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he said, "Today, they have created a myth in the name of the Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets. If you, Europeans 'committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian nation pay the price? You should pay the compensation yourself. This is our proposal: Give a part of your own land in Europe, the United

States, Canada or Alaska to them so that the Jews can establish their country."

This is President Ahmadinejad in his own words that I place before the House, all accurately translated and provided in one place by the Congressional Research Service to present clearly a rising danger to our allies in Israel and to the West in general.

Tomorrow we will see the results of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group report. This report is the work of serious men and women. It will lay out well thought out proposals for the United States in the Middle East.

One proposal that it may contain is to increase our dialogue with Iran. Now we should always talk with every country and every leader, but we should have this dialogue with Iran in an informed way so our discussion is clearly led by knowing with whom we are speaking. We should not begin our dialogue with Iran from a position of ignorance as to what the president of Iran has already said to large crowds in published works and on their national television.

What I have laid before the House this afternoon is Ahmadinejad in his own words, so that as we begin a new phase of U.S. relations in the Middle East, we begin by learning more and knowing about this man and what he believes and what he thinks he must do to the world.

I was looking briefly at a recently translated quote by another leader who said, "Why does the world shed crocodile tears over the richly merited fate of the small Jewish minority? What has happened to the conscience of the world when millions in Germany are suffering from hunger and misery? I ask the American people: Are you prepared to receive in your midst these well-poisoners of people and the universal spirit of Christianity?"

It may sound like a recent speech from President Ahmadinejad. It was actually the works of Adolf Hitler published in the magazine *Staatszeitung*.

Looking at these words, we have an eerie echo of the past, but potentially a warning of the future. I lay them before the House today so we see them all clearly for who this leader is, what he has stated publicly, and where he would like to take his Nation and its relation with his neighbors in the Middle East.

I want to thank Peter Black, senior historian for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Greta Stults and Harold Edinger for their help in these translations.

With that, we have laid Ahmadinejad, in his own words, before the House on this very special week for U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) is recognized for 5 minutes.